

that Bryant Schlade of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Bryant's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Bryant brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Napoleon High School, in Napoleon, Ohio, Bryant was on the Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Bryant was a member of his school's football, basketball, and track and field teams and earned varsity letters in all three sports. In addition, Bryant served as captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year. He was class president, member of the student council, Spanish Club member, Envirothon, and volunteered his time as an usher at church. I am confident that Bryant will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bryant Schlade on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Bryant will excel during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING DR. RAY ANN HAVASY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ray Ann Havasy, an esteemed resident of my congressional district. Not only is she an active and vocal member of her community in Port Washington, she is also the Director of the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, a valuable and necessary organization on Long Island.

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning exists to promote science education and literacy in children and adults. They accomplish this by holding workshops that engage our youth and challenge them to pursue their education inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Havasy, along with CSTL, has made an effort to promote S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning through local competitions that challenge participants to think critically about their studies and allow them to sharpen their knowledge in an applicable manner. The efforts of CSTL represent the type of innovative, out-of-the-box thinking we need to ensure that our children's academic competence remains that of a global leader.

Dr. Havasy and the Center for Science Teaching and Learning represent a positive institution in our community and I applaud their work. I am honored to be able to represent them here in Congress.

REMEMBERING JOHN BENINCASA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life and service of John Benincasa. John sadly passed away on April 6, 2014 at the age of 87.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Alliance" to those in his community, John was an extraordinary civil servant and veteran who served as president of the Alliance City Council and dedicated himself to the people of Stark County. On the day of his passing, John was in his 11th consecutive term as City Council president.

After graduating from Mount Union College, John worked as vice president and general manager of Da-Tronics Inc. He later became the City of Alliance Safety Service Director for much of the 1980s under then Mayor Francis Carr.

John was an active volunteer for his community, including 12 years on the Alliance Park board. John also spent 13 years in the Alliance Jaycees as a Board Member, where he helped organize and manage the Carnation City Triathlon/Duathlon for 25 years. John was also an active member of the United Methodist Church and the Alliance Area Family YMCA.

He was an exemplary civil servant, who was able to set aside partisan differences and work for the betterment of the city he loved. John will be honored by the Stark County Democratic Party posthumously with the lifetime achievement award. He was devoted to his family and faith, and was dedicated to and strongly preached the principles of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the life of John Benincasa. I extend my most sincere condolences to John's entire family. His contributions to this community will not be forgotten. Northeast Ohio is a better place because of his service and his life. I ask that the House join me in remembering Mr. John Benincasa.

HONORING THE ETZ CHAIM CENTER ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of The Etz Chaim Center on the occasion of their anniversary this June, marking 25 years of providing quality Jewish education from a spiritual perspective to the Delaware Valley. Etz Chaim is a welcoming, non-judgmental organization dedicated to bringing the beauty and depth of Judaism to the contemporary Jew. Through a diverse menu of educational and spiritually-focused programs, Jews of all backgrounds are able to grow and connect more passionately with their heritage. Based in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, in my Congressional district, Etz Chaim provides programming for Jews and families in Montgomery County and the Philadelphia area.

Etz Chaim was founded in 1988 by Rabbi David Wachs and Rabbi Moshe Ungar in Northeast Philadelphia. Since then, both their space and their programs have grown. Etz Chaim's new headquarters in Elkins Park opened in 2012, allowing them to expand their numerous class, forum, and event offerings, providing hundreds of educational and spiritual programs for the community. Each year, Etz Chaim reaches almost 1,000 people, from community based events attended by many, to one on one learning sessions for individuals looking to advance their personal growth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Etz Chaim and all of their success in supporting the Jewish community in Pennsylvania.

HONORING CHARLES WILLIAM RANSOME

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie Ransome who served our country for 23 years in the United States Army. I had the great privilege of knowing Charlie, and today I am including in the Congressional Record a tribute to him so that my colleagues will know how much he contributed to the nation, to his community, to his friends, and to his family.

Charles William "Charlie" Ransome, 49 years of age, passed away peacefully at his home in Sugar Land, Texas on November 30, 2012, after a courageous seven month battle with pancreatic cancer.

A celebration of Charlie's life was held at a funeral mass at St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land, Texas on Friday, December 7, 2012. He was buried in Houston National Cemetery with full military honors, as was his wish. Serving as pallbearers were Michael Ransome, Bobby Balli, Terry Ray, Adrian Janak, David Ragusa, Richard Whitworth, Bill McLaughlin, and Jim Allen.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife and son, Melinda Janak Ransome and Charles Zachary Ransome of Sugar Land, Texas. Also surviving him are his parents Rufus G. Ransome, Jr. and Jeanine Calderoni Ransome of Brownsville, Texas; his sister, Kathryn Anne Traynor (Frank) and nieces Sarah, Emily, and Rebecca of Houston, Texas; his brother, Michael Edward Ransome (Denise) and nephew Joshua and niece Olivia of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Additional survivors include his uncle, Charles Fount Ray and cousins Sandy and Karen Ray, Marshall and Mary Lou Ray, and Terry and Laurie Ray, all of Brownsville, Texas; and his uncle and aunt, William S. McLaughlin, Jr. and Doris Calderoni McLaughlin, and cousins Mary Leigh McLaughlin, Grayson Tate, and William S. McLaughlin, III, all of Houston, Texas.

Charlie was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Rufus G. Ransome and Kathryn Eidman Ransome; maternal grandparents, Dr. Charles F. Calderoni and Doris Thompson Calderoni; and his aunt Ann Ransome Ray.

Charlie was born on June 7, 1963, in Brownsville, Texas, to Rufus G. Ransome, Jr.